

MINUTES OF BENTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

September 25, 2008

A regular meeting of the Benton County Quorum Court was held on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benton County Administration Building, 215 East Central Avenue, Bentonville, Arkansas, pursuant to proper call and notice.

County Judge Gary Black called the meeting to order.

In the absence of County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard, Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell called roll as follows:

12 JP's Present:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Summers, Williams, Winscott, Wolf, Wozniak
1 Absent:	Stephenson

JP Wolf made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances by title only, seconded by JP Glass.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The presiding officer led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Prayer was led by Jeff Odom, Word of Life Fellowship Church.

A moment of silence was held in support of the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

MINUTES:

JP Winscott made motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of August 28, 2008 as distributed, seconded by JP Hill. Motion to approve the minutes carried by unanimous voice vote.

COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:

County Judge Gary Black stated that the Quarterly Road Report has been distributed, and to contact him if there are any questions. Judge Black announced that the Countywide Clean Up will be held at the County Road Department on Saturday, October 4, 2008 beginning at 7:00 a.m., and a Town Hall meeting will be held at the Lost Bridge Community Building on October 6, 2008.

County Judge Gary Black yielded to JP Summers, who introduced the 4-H members in attendance in honor of National 4-H Month in October.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT:

JP Winscott stated that the JDC will be making a presentation at the October 14, 2008 Committee of Thirteen meeting.

JP Summers stated that beginning October 7, 2008, the Finance Committee will begin meeting every week in order to begin Budget discussions, and that JP Stephenson asked him to remind the Personnel Committee that they will be meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. to hear new personnel requests.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jeff Wyant commented on the Assessor's office, stating that Washington County contracts their reappraisal much more cheaply than the Assessor's office budget, and only 10 counties in Arkansas use in-house appraisers.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance Amending Certain Sections of Chapter 2, Article VII et seq. of the *Code of Ordinances of Benton County, Arkansas* Regarding Benton County Employment and Salary Administration Policy;
Sponsor: JP Robert Stephenson

Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell read the proposed ordinance by title only. JP Summers made motion for approval, seconded by JP Williams.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Summers, Williams, Winscott, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent:	Stephenson

Second reading passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Proposed Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of the James Simpson Family to Arkansas 4-H and Their Selection as the 2008 Farm Family of the Year;
Sponsor: JP Tim Summers

JP Summers requested that Item "A" be delayed until the rest of the family who are being recognized arrive from Fayetteville.

- (B) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2007-30 (**2008** Benton County Budget) Authorizing a Transfer of Funds Between Categories and Line Items; Appropriating Additional Monies and Authorizing Additional Expenditures in Various Funds and Departments; Sponsor: JP Tim Summers

Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell read the proposed ordinance by title only. JP Summers made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Wolf. JP Summers stated that this has been through the Finance Committee and the Committee of Thirteen, and some of the major adjustments include fuel costs, an extra payroll in 2008, and renovation costs for the new courtroom.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Summers, Williams, Winscott, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent:	Stephenson

Appropriation rdinance duly adopted and assigned **No. O-2008-24**.

- (C) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2007-30 (**2008** Benton County Budget) Authorizing a Transfer of Funds Between Categories and Line Items; Appropriating Additional Monies and Authorizing Additional Expenditures in Department 23, Non-departmental Maintenance, Fund 020; Sponsor: JP Tim Summers

Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell read the proposed ordinance by title only. JP Summers made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Williams. JP Summers stated that this has been through the Finance Committee and the Committee of Thirteen, and this is the is the portion that the county has agreed to pay, along with several other cities, in order to add a new route to the Northwest Arkansas Community College.

JP Hobbs stated that the City of Rogers has a contract with Ozark Regional Transit, and asked County Judge Gary Black if the Benton County has one. She said that she thought it would be prudent to have one, so that we would know what we are getting for the money, such as how many riders are from the unincorporated areas. County Judge Gary Black stated that he would get in touch with Phil Pumphrey and get that information to her.

JP Williams asked if it is correct that this is a one-time expenditure in the 2008 budget. JP Summers stated that it is.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Summers, Williams, Winscott, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent:	Stephenson

Appropriation ordinance duly adopted and assigned **No. O-2008-25**.

JP Glass stated that he would like a discussion of the Assessor's Office, relative to the costs and efficiencies, be included on the next Committee of Thirteen agenda. JP Moore suggested contacting the company that Washington County has contracted with to have them come and speak. JP Winscott stated that they should look into it, and asked if Mr. Wyant could be included in the discussion.

County Judge Gary Black stated that they are walking a fine line, talking about another elected official. He said they control the purse strings, but elected officials control what goes on in their offices.

County Attorney Robin Green stated that the decision to contract the re-appraisal would be made by the Assessor; the contract would have to be signed by the County Judge, and then agreed to and coordinated with the Assessment Coordination Division. She said that while the Quorum Court is the legislating body, those two elected officials and a state agency ultimately make the decision to contract the reappraisal.

JP Summers said that his recommendation is to invite the Assessor to come and speak, because he is sure some research was done on both options, and he may have a very good reason why it was done the way it was done. He said they can certainly talk about it, but it is not a legislative function, although there is a financial consideration. JP Glass stated that they certainly need to respect what the Assessor says, but in doing their job in regard to the purse strings, they should ask why the amount is so disparate. JP Summers stated that since the school districts are directly involved, they should contact them and see if they are interested in the discussion.

JP Wolf stated that Assessor Bill Moutray should be given the opportunity to address the issue first, and not come into the next Committee of Thirteen meeting to be converged upon by a group of people who have already done their own research. JP Glass stated that he agreed, and they should give him that opportunity for an informal meeting on the 14th.

JP Williams stated that she wanted to make a statement regarding the proposed resolution in honor of the Simpson Family, because she is going to have to leave before the resolution is voted on, as the family members have not arrived. She said that she has had the pleasure to work with James Simpson on several issues, he is a good source of information, and his arguments are well reasoned. She said that she also had the opportunity to meet the entire family, and they are the kind of people who are needed in Benton County.

- (A) Proposed Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of the James Simpson Family to Arkansas 4-H and Their Selection as the 2008 Farm Family of the Year;
Sponsor: JP Tim Summers

The James Simpson family was recognized and JP Tim Summers read the proposed resolution in full. JP Summers made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Williams. .

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

12 yeas:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Summers, Williams, Winscott, Wolf, Wozniak
1 absent:	Stephenson

Resolution duly adopted and assigned No. **R-2008-17.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There being no further business to come before the court, upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Slinkard,
County Clerk

Prepared by: Betsy Harrell